



State of Illinois  
Pat Quinn, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation  
Ann L. Schneider, Secretary

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## **IDOT Update: Ontario Street Demolition Condensed to Two Weekends**

*Accelerated Pace Means Fewer Disruptions, Overnight Traffic Changes, Reopening Kennedy Lanes*

**CHICAGO** – The Illinois Department of Transportation announced this afternoon that it is proceeding this weekend with the demolition of the segment of the Ontario Street bridge originally scheduled to come down the weekend of June 27. The revised schedule, made possible by the expedited pace in which the demolition work is proceeding, means the project to remove all of the old Ontario Street bridge over the Kennedy Expressway (I-90/94) will now take place over two weekends instead of three.

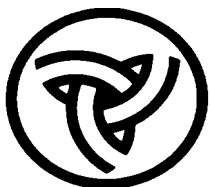
A change in the work zone will occur late tonight. By approximately 10 p.m., the inbound Ohio Street exit ramp will be closed and the two inbound lanes of traffic currently serving as a temporary runaround will be shifted to the mainline expressway lanes. Before noon on Sunday, all inbound expressway lanes and the reversibles will be open.

By 5 a.m. Monday, the Ohio Street exit will reopen.

Next weekend's schedule, which will require closing lanes on the outbound Kennedy, remains unchanged, weather permitting.

IDOT is asking the public for its continued patience and to still plan accordingly if traveling in and out of Chicago this weekend to avoid any backups and delays.

“The removal of the Ontario Street bridge is proceeding so smoothly that we, in coordination with the City of Chicago, are taking advantage of the opportunity to condense this project into just two weekends,” Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider said. “We wish to thank the public for heeding the message that while the City of Chicago is open for business, people should continue to plan for extra time if they are driving this weekend and strongly consider alternate routes and public transportation.”



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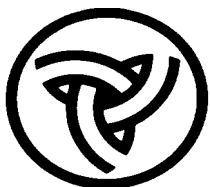
The weekend Kennedy lane closures are required to remove the Ontario Street bridge, built in 1959, as part of an \$18 million reconstruction of the Ohio/Ontario interchange. The first weekend of closures went into effect 10 p.m. Friday, with the inbound expressway reduced to two lanes using the Ohio Street exit to avoid the work zone. Since the closures started, traffic volumes have been reduced by roughly one-third on the inbound Kennedy for a typical June weekend, with slightly elevated travel times.

To view a snapshot of the bridge demolition, updated every five minutes, visit [www.travelmidwest.com/lmiga/camera?type=snapshot&id=IL-IDOT-KE01A](http://www.travelmidwest.com/lmiga/camera?type=snapshot&id=IL-IDOT-KE01A).

For the latest updates on the impact to traffic, visit [www.travelmidwest.com](http://www.travelmidwest.com). Both the Chicago Transit Authority and Metra have increased service and capacity to accommodate additional passengers this weekend. Please visit [www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com) and [www.metrarail.com](http://www.metrarail.com) for information on public transportation.

For complete project information, including detours, alternate routes and updates, visit [www.dot.il.gov/KennedyatOhio/detour.html](http://www.dot.il.gov/KennedyatOhio/detour.html).

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